

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 7, 2017

The Honorable James Mattis
Secretary of Defense
Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

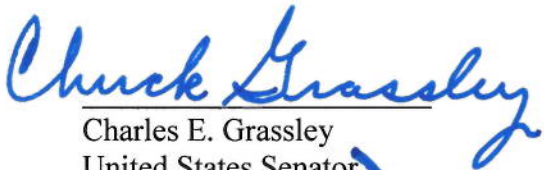
Dear Secretary Mattis:


We write to direct your attention to the long overdue and failing Department of Defense (DOD) audit effort. The Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990 mandated that all federal departments produce unqualified annual financial statements by 1992. Twenty-five years later, DOD is the only agency yet to comply. This inability to account for expenditures does a disservice to the American taxpayer and threatens our national security.

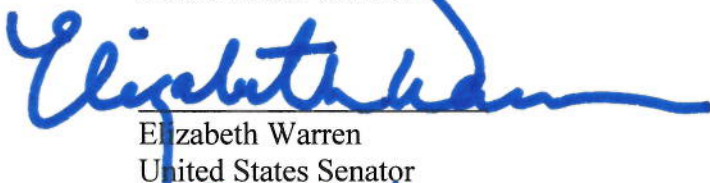
At a time when military readiness and modernization require continued investments, DOD must reassure Congress and the American people that those investments will be properly managed. Clean audits inherently provide controls that guard against fraud, waste and abuse. They also enable more efficient and effective spending on critical programs and bring the Department in compliance with federal law. During your confirmation hearing, you committed to running a more efficient and transparent Department and to cooperate with Congress. This gives us confidence that you will succeed where your predecessors have failed.

The September 30, 2017, deadline for audit compliance, established by the Fiscal Year 2010 National Defense Authorization Act, is rapidly approaching. We request the Department of Defense work diligently to fix the inadequate accounting systems that appear to make obtaining a clean audit unachievable, and that you are appropriately prepared to present a clean audit to the American people.

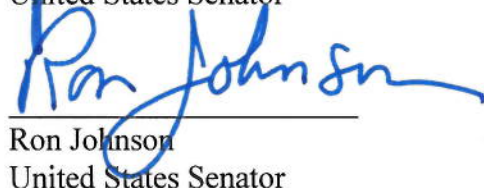
Sincerely,

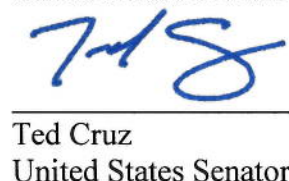

Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator


Joni K. Ernst
United States Senator


Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator


Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator


Ron Johnson
United States Senator


Ted Cruz
United States Senator



Deb Fischer
United States Senator



Mazie Hirono
United States Senator